668 Estonian nationalists in April, 1944. Some of them were released only shortly before the end of the German occupation.

727 471 Economically Estonia did not fare any better under German occupation than she did under the Soviets. Economic exploitation of the country continued. Only twelve per cent of the nationalized land was given back to the owners and in only a very few cases was private property returned. As a rule, the Germans did not restore ownership of nationalized property.

[437] Food rations for the people were so meager that no one could live without the help of the black market.

721 In the winter of 1943-44 the retreating Germans brought their front close to Estonia again. The great Soviet air raid on Tallinn on the night of March 9th, burned and destroyed much of the

262 rye bread and sweet-sour rye bread; cold meat jelly (sült) cooked with pigs' feet, head, and veal, and spiced with pepper, onion, bay leaves, and carrots; blood sausage (verivorst) made of grits and blood savored with special spices; sauerkraut with pork; cranberry "kissell"; and a special platter cake made with a topping of cottage cheese and eggs, either sweet or salty (korp).

511 During the war and occupation periods the Estonian food supply was extremely inadequate, especially in the cities. The rations given to the civilians by the Nazis were so small that, according to Estonian doctors' estimates, an active person could live on them only eight months without becoming seriously ill. It is [437] therefore not surprising that the black market was extensively used. Since World War II,

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 3d,

Economic Background

BANKING AND CURRENCY SYSTEM

652 At the advent of the First Soviet Occupation the Estonian kroon was devaluated to about ten times less than its previous worth and replaced by the Soviet ruble at the rate of one kroon for 1.25 rubles. The purchasing power of the ruble was, of course, far lower than of the kroon. All bank accounts were revaluated at this same rate, and those accounts over 1,000 kroons were seized for the State. When at the beginning of German Occupation the Russian ruble was replaced by the German Ost-Mark, one ruble at ten pfennigs, this was a reasonable rate, for the purchasing power of the Ost-Mark was no better than Russian currency. For one

[437]

month's salary one could buy on the black market 2-3 kilograms -379- of butter or pork.